

Political Sign and Solicitation Regulations in Los Gatos

The Los Gatos Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 29 of the Town Code, regulates all signs in the Town and provides that:

Definition of a Political Sign:

Any sign which is intended to influence the vote for the passage or defeat of a measure, or nomination, election or defeat of a candidate in any governmental election. (Sec 29.10.100)

Political Signs on Private Property:

Any number of non-illuminated political signs, either freestanding or attached, is permitted, limited to a total area not exceeding six (6) square feet in residential zones and not exceeding eighteen (18) square feet in other zones. There is no area limit for political window signs, and their area is in addition to that allowed for other political signs. No political sign shall be erected an unreasonable period of time in advance of the election or convention, and all persons who erect political signs or who own or control the premises where political signs are erected, are jointly and severally liable to remove such signs within ten (10) days after the election or convention to which the sign pertains. (Sec.29.10.110(15))

Resolution 2004-085 states . . . that during the 2004 election cycle, political signs may be first posted beginning at the close of the extension period to declare candidacy (August 11, 2004), and shall be removed no later than ten (10) days following the date of the election (November 2, 2004).

No signs, political or otherwise are allowed:

- Within the public right-of-way (Sec. 29.10.115(9))
- Obstructing the view of a traffic sign, signal or device (Sec 29.10.115(7))
- On any fence, pole tree, pavement, wall, bus stop, bench or any other object in a public thoroughfare (Sec. 29.10.115(9))

Removal of Unlawful Signs:

Any sign erected or maintained contrary to the provisions of this division (of the Town Code) or any other ordinance of the Town, including unlawfully erected signs . . . is in its entirety an unlawful sign. The provisions of sections 29.20.950 and 29.20.955, addressing process and penalty for violation infraction, are applicable to unlawful signs, and to those who erect or maintain them. (Sec.29.10.140(i))

Solicitation, Handbill and Flyer Distribution:

It is not permitted to throw, cast, distribute, scatter, deposit or place, upon any public place within the Town or on any vehicle, any handbill, dodger, sample, circular, advertisement, newspaper, paper, booklet, poster, or any other printed matter or literature except that such an item may be personally delivered to those who are willing to accept the item, so long as such delivery is otherwise lawful under this code. (Sec 18.10.010(a)(b))

Los Gatos Town Code may be accessed at www.municode.com or www.losgatosca.gov

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